

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

MOSHE SAPERSTEIN, et al., )  
)  
Plaintiffs, )  
)  
vs. ) Case No. 04-20225-CIV  
)  
THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY; )  
THE PALESTINE LIBERATION )  
ORGANIZATION, )  
)  
Defendants. )  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

VIDEOTAPED 30(b)(6) DEPOSITION OF  
SALAM FAYYAD  
EAST JERUSALEM, ISRAEL  
MARCH 9, 2010

REPORTED BY: BRENDA MATZOV, CA CSR NO. 9243

1 introduction made -- and I do not know exactly when the  
2 proceeding made -- you know, started for the record --  
3 specifically in relation to the reference to the place  
4 where -- where we are meeting. I accept exactly the way  
5 in which it was characterized by the reporter. And I  
6 accept that, but not the reference to Jerusalem that was  
7 made before the outset. I just want to make that clear.

8 Q. Duly clarified.

9 A. Thank you.

10 Q. Should I ask the question again?

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. What is your name?

13 A. My name is Salam Fayyad.

14 Q. Is that your full name?

15 A. Salam Khalid Abdullah Fayyad is my full name.

16 Q. And what is your address?

17 A. I reside with my wife in East Jerusalem in  
18 Beit Hanina.

19 Q. And what is your date of birth?

20 A. April 12, '52.

21 Q. And where were you born?

22 A. In Nablus.

23 Q. Can you briefly summarize your educational  
24 background?

25 A. First nine grades in Tulkarm. Last three

1 Strip. But that's the extent of -- of my knowledge of  
2 the case.

3 Q. Do you know what kind of attack?

4 A. I do not know.

5 Q. Do you know who carried out the attack?

6 A. I don't either.

7 Q. Have you asked anyone to conduct any kind of  
8 investigation to find out who did this attack?

9 A. Mr. Tolchin, the case, if I recall, relates  
10 to a time period when I was not with the -- with the  
11 Palestinian Authority. The time period that the  
12 deposition covers is before -- before my time with  
13 the Palestinian Authority. So I was not in a position  
14 to -- to do. And that's basically what it is.

15 Q. But you -- what is your position with the  
16 Authority today?

17 A. I am the Prime Minister of the Palestinian  
18 National Authority today.

19 Q. And as the Prime Minister, what are your  
20 duties?

21 A. You know, to manage the affairs of the  
22 Palestinian people in all areas of governance and  
23 service delivery, in -- in all areas.

24 Q. Is it fair to say you're the head executive  
25 of the Palestinian Authority?

1 supervise those branches?

2 A. Yes. I was the general manager of all of  
3 them. Yeah.

4 Q. And what happened in 2002 as far as your  
5 employment is concerned?

6 A. I joined the Palestinian Authority as Finance  
7 Minister in June 2002.

8 Q. You joined as Finance Minister?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And how long did you stay as Finance Minister?

11 A. I stayed in that capacity until late 2005,  
12 November 2005.

13 Q. Okay. And what happened in 2005 as far as  
14 your professional --

15 A. Well, I -- I ran for office, for the  
16 legislative elections that took place in January of  
17 2006. And -- well, technically, I'm still a member  
18 of the Palestinian Legislative Council in a way.  
19 It's not been meeting for a number of years. But I  
20 was -- I was elected. I won a seat in the legislature.

21 Q. So let me clarify. In 2005, you ran for --

22 A. 2006. January 2006.

23 Q. You ran for office?

24 A. Correct.

25 Q. And the office you were running for was a

1 Q. And he was still Prime Minister of the PA in  
2 2004; correct?

3 A. He was. Yes.

4 Q. Yes? Okay.

5 Besides holding positions in the PA, does or  
6 did Mr. Qurei hold any positions in the PLO?

7 A. No. I don't believe he did.

8 Q. He never did, never at any point in history?

9 A. He currently is a member of the PLO Executive  
10 Committee. But he was not then. This is all recent.

11 Q. Okay. So today he's a member of the  
12 Executive --

13 A. Today he is. But he wasn't at the time.

14 Q. Okay. What is the Executive Committee?

15 A. The Executive Committee is an organ of  
16 the Palestine Liberation Organization elected by the  
17 Palestinian National Council to act as its executive  
18 so to speak.

19 Q. Okay. Can you explain what is the PLO, what  
20 is the PA, and what is the connection between them?

21 A. PLO is -- is the highest, in terms of  
22 seniority, in the political system of Palestinian  
23 people. It's the highest organ. And it was  
24 recognized and continues to be as the sole legitimate  
25 representative of all Palestinian people. That

1 continues to be the case today.

2 After Oslo Accords, the Palestinian Authority  
3 was established. And it was established as a product  
4 of an agreement between the PLO, acting on behalf of  
5 the Palestinian people, and the Government of Israel.  
6 As such, therefore, the Palestinian Authority, in terms  
7 of hierarchy, yes, it is a part of the system, the  
8 highest organ of which is the PLO. But it -- it was  
9 charged a task specifically with managing the affairs  
10 of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian  
11 territory. So there is that relationship.

12 The head of the Palestinian National Authority  
13 and the head of the PLO Executive Committee were the  
14 same person since the inception of the Palestinian  
15 Authority.

16 (Brief court reporter clarification.)

17 THE WITNESS: Were the same person. First,  
18 late President Yasser Arafat, at the same time chairman  
19 of the PLO Executive Committee. Currently, President  
20 Mahmoud Abbas, who also is chairman of the PLO Executive  
21 Committee.

22 Q. BY MR. TOLCHIN: So you mentioned the  
23 Oslo --

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. -- Accords.

1 What is the Oslo Accords?

2 A. The Oslo Accords are the accords that led to,  
3 among other things, the creation of the Palestinian  
4 Authority.

5 Q. Is it accurate to say that the Oslo Accords  
6 was an agreement between Israel and the PLO?

7 A. That's exactly what I said.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. And the Oslo Accords created the PA --

11 A. That's correct.

12 Q. -- to administer certain territories?

13 A. That is correct.

14 Q. And the PLO existed before the PA?

15 A. That is correct.

16 Q. And does the PLO -- withdrawn.

17 When did the PLO begin to exist?

18 A. 1964.

19 Q. And what is or was the function of the PLO?

20 And if it changed over time, you could tell me that.

21 A. It acted as a representative of the  
22 Palestinian people, assumed the responsibility of  
23 protecting the interests of Palestinian people and  
24 representing them. And it started to gain recognition  
25 as such first in the region, then internationally

1 beginning in 1974, as a matter of fact, when it was  
2 recognized as the sole legitimate representative of  
3 the Palestinian people by Arab countries.

4 And over the period since then, through 1993,  
5 other countries joined in in that recognition. In  
6 1993, in the context of the Oslo Accords, the PLO was  
7 recognized as such by the State of Israel. That was  
8 part of what is referred to under the Oslo Accords as  
9 the Declaration of Mutual Recognition, when the State  
10 of Israel recognized the PLO as a representative of  
11 Palestinian people. And the PLO, in return, recognized  
12 Israel's right to exist in peace and security.

13 Q. And does the PLO have components or  
14 constituent parts?

15 A. Yes. The highest council of the PLO is the  
16 Palestinian National Council, which, if you want, refers  
17 to a structure that can be thought of as a parliament,  
18 if you will, several hundred delegates. Within that,  
19 there is the Palestinian Central Council, which is a  
20 smaller version of that bigger body. And it acts on  
21 its behalf in the event that the Palestinian National  
22 Council cannot meet.

23 And then, of course, in terms of executive  
24 authority, it is delegated to the -- the -- the  
25 Executive Committee of the PLO. And the Executive

1 Committee of the PLO is elected by the Palestinian  
2 National Council. These are the rules.

3 Q. Okay. And are there other organizations that  
4 are part of the PLO?

5 A. Factions. Yeah.

6 Q. Factions. Okay.

7 A. Yeah. Palestinian factions. Yes.

8 Q. And what are some of the larger factions?

9 A. The largest by far is Fatah.

10 Q. Okay. Are there others?

11 A. Yes. There is, for example, Democratic Front  
12 for the Liberation of Palestine. You know, I'm now  
13 going through the translation from Arabic to English.  
14 There is Nidal Shabi (phonetic). There is Palestine  
15 Liberation Front. There's several factions.

16 Q. What is Black September?

17 A. Black September is a name that a group assumed  
18 and took -- now, if I recall correctly -- back in 1970,  
19 claiming at that time that they were a faction of Fatah  
20 or something like that.

21 Q. Uh-huh.

22 A. But it's a self-assumed, you know,  
23 characterization.

24 Q. Does it exist today?

25 A. No. I don't believe it does.

1 Planning and Cooperation in March of 2001?

2 A. I believe it was Nabil Shaath who was.

3 Q. Nabil Shaath?

4 A. I believe.

5 Q. But you're not sure?

6 A. I could check that. But I'm -- I'm -- I'm  
7 fairly sure. Minister of Planning and International  
8 Cooperation, he -- yeah, I believe it was Nabil Shaath.

9 Q. Okay. I'm going to move on to a new topic.

10 Does anyone need a bathroom, cigarette break,  
11 tape change, or just move on?

12 A. Let's move on.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. Thanks for the offer anyway.

15 Q. The witness yesterday needed a cigarette break  
16 very often.

17 Do you know about any funds received by the  
18 Palestine National Fund, PNF, between October 1st, 2000,  
19 and February 18th, 2002?

20 A. Funds?

21 Q. Received by the PNF in the time frame of  
22 October 1, 2000, to February 18, 2002?

23 A. You know, I can tell you the -- what I said  
24 before. I was not with the Palestinian Authority at the  
25 time.

1 Q. Uh-huh.

2 A. But money, I mean, in terms of sources of  
3 funding, after the PA came into being, the PLO, given  
4 everything I know now -- it wasn't during those years --  
5 but ceased to have its own independent sources of  
6 funding largely. I mean, so, you know, funding for  
7 its own operations did come from the PA.

8 (Brief court reporter clarification.)

9 THE WITNESS: "Did."

10 Q. BY MR. TOLCHIN: So the PA --

11 A. Well, I -- I assume basically, during that  
12 time period, the -- the PNF did get money from the PA.

13 Q. Okay. Are -- are you testifying about  
14 something you know for sure, or you're just surmising?

15 A. Well -- well, given what I know now -- I mean,  
16 I can tell you -- I mean, I -- I know now what is going  
17 on.

18 The -- the PNF disburses money, for example,  
19 to our representatives abroad, meaning like ambassadors,  
20 if you will. Now, that money, you know, comes from  
21 the PA to pay for the ambassadors. But given that the  
22 foreign affairs portfolio -- given its representational  
23 dimension is thought to be the purview of the PLO as  
24 a function that's handled by the financial organ of the  
25 PLO, which is the fund, the PNF. Money for that did

1     come from -- for example, did come from the PA. I mean,  
2     it -- it does come from the PA today.

3           Q.     So the --

4           A.     So -- so --

5           Q.     So the PA gives money to the PNF?

6           A.     Yes, it does.

7           Q.     Okay. Do you know -- are you -- do you know  
8     or are you just assuming that that was -- that -- that  
9     in the period of -- of October 2000 to February 2002  
10    that the PA gave money to the PNF?

11          A.     I know that to be the case today. And I  
12    assume it was the case before, meaning including the  
13    period that you talked about.

14          Q.     Did the PNF have any other sources of funding  
15    between October 2000 and February 2002?

16          A.     I do not know for sure as I told you. But  
17    as is well-known since the inception of Palestinian  
18    Authority, funding for Palestinians started to be  
19    directed exclusively and to be channeled exclusively  
20    through the PA.

21                 So for the most part, the answer will have  
22    to be that the funding for P -- PLO or to the PNF,  
23    the Palestine National Fund, comes mostly, if not  
24    completely, from the Palestinian Authority or it has  
25    been since the inception of Palestinian Authority.

1 That is what I assume has happened since the inception  
2 of the Palestinian Authority. That's what I know is  
3 happening today.

4 Q. Do you know how much money in total came from  
5 the PA to the PNF during the period of October 1st,  
6 2000, to February 18, 2002?

7 A. No, I don't.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. I don't.

10 Q. Who does the PNF pay money to?

11 A. You know, PNF, as I told you, for example,  
12 they -- they pay our representational offices abroad,  
13 like embassies. They're not called embassies, but --  
14 in most places, they're not called that. But that's  
15 part of the -- of -- of what they do. Organizations  
16 affiliated with -- with the PLO as such. Like unions  
17 and -- and things like that, they get paid from the PLO  
18 and through the PNF. So that's what it is.

19 Q. Okay. Let me just go back to something for  
20 a second.

21 Have you ever been involved in any way with  
22 funding violent attacks?

23 A. No. Absolutely not.

24 Q. Have you ever been involved in the payment  
25 of rewards, let's call it, to people who carried out

1 given the nature of the job at the time and the brevity  
2 of the time period in which I was a manager of the bank.  
3 I was not manager of a branch, in other words.

4 Q. BY MR. TOLCHIN: When you were at Arab  
5 Bank --

6 A. Yeah.

7 Q. -- were you aware on any level that Arab Bank  
8 was being used to transfer money to people who carried  
9 out violent attacks --

10 A. No.

11 Q. -- or their families?

12 A. No.

13 MR. ROCHON: Objection to form.

14 THE WITNESS: No.

15 Q. BY MR. TOLCHIN: No?

16 A. No, I'm not -- I was not aware.

17 Q. I lost my paper.

18 Who received funds from the PNF between  
19 October 1st, 2000, and February 18th, 2002?

20 A. I do not know the answer to that question  
21 with -- with any degree of precision. There are  
22 categories of the kind that I described to you. But --  
23 but I cannot give you a list, not because I don't want  
24 to. I just don't know.

25 Q. Do you know whether Fatah received funds from

1 the PNF between October 1, 2000, and February 2002?

2 A. Yes, it is possible. And certainly given  
3 the declaration made by the PNF officials, the -- the  
4 Palestine National Fund officials here, I can say, yes,  
5 that happened.

6 Q. Okay. Were payments made to specific Fatah  
7 officials from the PNF between October 1st, 2000, and  
8 February 18th, 2002?

9 A. I do not, you know, have names. I do not know  
10 names. But -- but I know that the PNF did make payments  
11 to -- to Fatah --

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. -- or individuals affiliated with Fatah.

14 Q. Do you know which individuals?

15 A. No, I do not.

16 Q. Do you know how much those payments were, the  
17 dollar value or the amounts?

18 A. No. I -- I do not know either. But with the  
19 benefit of the testimony of the officials I referred to  
20 and also having -- having spoken to them, they were not  
21 amounts of significance that were paid out to people  
22 affiliated with Fatah.

23 Q. Besides Fatah, do you know any other  
24 organizations or individuals who received payments from  
25 the PNF between October 1st, 2000, and February 18th,

1 Reserve Board, the United States. It's a central bank  
2 more or less.

3 Q. Is it part of the Palestinian Authority?

4 A. It is.

5 Q. Back in the time that you were with the IMF,  
6 was Yasser Arafat still alive?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Yeah. And was he -- and what was his  
9 position?

10 A. President of Palestinian National Authority  
11 and chairman of the PLO Executive Committee.

12 Q. And was he personally involved in the finances  
13 of the Palestinian Authority?

14 A. Based on what I knew then, in -- in the  
15 sense of issuing instructions, but not in the sense  
16 of actually managing finances of the PA.

17 Q. Okay. Are you familiar with an individual  
18 named Muhammad Rashid?

19 A. Yes, I know him.

20 Q. And who is Muhammad Rashid?

21 A. He was economic advisor to late President  
22 Yasser Arafat.

23 Q. And when did he become the economic advisor  
24 to Mr. Arafat?

25 A. I don't know for sure. But I believe since